

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a transmission;

a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission and comprises a push rod;

an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;

compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, and wherein said push rod has a first end received by said jaw with said jaw being compliance adjustable relative to said first end to provide end sealer compliance relative to said contact member.

Claim 2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a compliance spring.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a transmission;

a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission and comprises a push rod;

an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;

compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said push rod has a first end received by said jaw with said jaw being compliance adjustable relative to said first end and wherein said compliance means includes a compliance spring, and ~~The assembly of claim 2~~

wherein said push rod assembly comprises a reception sleeve receiving said rod and said reception sleeve being biased by said compliance spring which is in a reception relationship with said rod.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 3 wherein said rod further comprises an expanded jaw end which restricts movement of said rod relative to at least one of said jaw and reception sleeve.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 5 wherein said expanded jaw end of said rod is received within a cavity defined by said jaw.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said transmission includes a cam.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 7 wherein said transmission further including a roller which is in engagement with said cam and in driving communication with said push rod assembly.

Claim 9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said roller is positioned at one end of said push rod assembly.

Claim 10. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said roller rides along an outer, peripheral edge of said cam.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a roller bias spring which is positioned so as to bias said roller into engagement with said cam.

Claim 12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a first and a second spring positioned at said push rod assembly.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a transmission;

a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission;

an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;

compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said compliance means includes a first and a second spring positioned at said push rod assembly, and wherein said first and second springs have a different spring constant value and wherein said first spring is positioned to bias said jaw toward the contact member and said second spring is positioned so as to bias said rod toward said transmission, and said first spring is of a higher spring constant than said second spring.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a transmission;

a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission and comprises a push rod;

an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;

compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said push rod and said jaw, which is adjustably connected to an end of said push rod, [[is]] are driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said compliance means includes a first and a second spring positioned at said push rod assembly, and wherein said first spring is positioned to bias said jaw toward the contact member to provide end sealer compliance relative to said contact member and said second spring is positioned so as to bias said push rod toward said transmission.

Claim 16. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a push rod assembly position restrictor device having an interior contact portion for a guided non-axial position retention of said push rod assembly.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:
a transmission;
a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission and comprises a push rod;
an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;
compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven
into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said compliance means
includes a biasing device and a push rod assembly position restrictor device having an interior
contact portion for a guided non-axial position retention of said push rod assembly, and wherein
said push rod assembly position restrictor device is a casing that is fixed in position relative to a
sealer frame structure, and said push rod is received within said casing and is in communication
with said biasing device such that said push rod is adjustable relative to said casing; The
~~assembly of claim 17 further comprising~~ and a slide sleeve slidingly received within said casing,
and wherein said biasing device exerts a biasing force against said slide sleeve.

Claim 19. (Original) The assembly of claim 18 wherein said compliance means includes a second biasing device positioned between an expanded portion of said rod assembly and said casing.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising a second jaw as said contact member and a heat element supported by said second jaw.

Claim 21. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising a casing receiving said push rod assembly and wherein said push rod assembly includes a pair of rods in engagement with respective opposite ends of said jaw, and each of said push rods being axially adjustable relative to one of said jaw or a housing receiving said push rod assembly.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a sealer compression jaw;

a rod assembly in driving engagement with said jaw, and said rod assembly having an adjustable engagement with said jaw;

a cam member in driving engagement with said rod assembly; and

a compliance bias spring, and wherein the driving engagement between said rod assembly and said jaw includes a rod extension slidingly received by said jaw and said jaw being biased away from said cam member by said compliance bias spring, and wherein said compliance bias spring provides an end sealer compliance function.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a casing which receives said push rod assembly;

and a second biasing spring, and wherein said push rod assembly includes a second bias spring contact section, and said second biasing spring being in a biasing relationship between said casing and the second bias spring contact section of said ~~of said~~ push rod assembly.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a sealer compression jaw;

a cam member;

a rod assembly in driving engagement with said cam member and said jaw, and said rod assembly having an adjustable engagement with said jaw at a location of support interconnection between said rod assembly and said jaw which is also an impart location of driving force from said cam member;

~~a cam member in driving engagement with said rod assembly; and~~

wherein said jaw comprises a block having a heater wire compression surface and a rod reception component which slidably receives an end of said rod.

Claim 26. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a housing block and wherein said push rod assembly includes a slide rod, which is slidably received by said housing block.

Claim 27. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a push rod assembly position restrictor, and wherein said transmission includes a cam, and wherein said push rod assembly includes a first spring which is preloaded to bias said jaw outward relative to the push rod position restrictor, and a second spring which is designed to bias a transmission engagement end of said push rod assembly toward said cam.

Claim 28. (Original) The assembly of claim 27 wherein said first spring has a higher spring constant than said second spring.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an end sealer shifter assembly, comprising:

providing a transmission;

providing a push rod assembly having a push rod which is in driving engagement with said transmission and has a first end in driving communication with said transmission and a second end;

providing an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly, and with said end seal compression jaw being adjustably connected to said push rod at said second end which is a location of adjustable interconnection between said push rod assembly and said jaw; and

providing compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, and wherein said jaw comprises a block having a heater wire compression surface.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) A method of forming an end seal in a bag dispensing system using the end sealer shifting assembly of claim 1, comprising:

feeding bag material between a first jaw representing said end seal compression jaw and a second jaw representing said contact member;
providing foam precursor to said bag being formed;

moving a first of said first and second jaws toward an opposite one of said first and second jaws to place in contact with the bag material an end seal element; and

with said compliance means allowing said moving jaw to conform to any variations in relative jaw-to-jaw flush contact when said first and second jaws are placed in an end seal forming relationship.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said jaw comprises a rod reception component which defines said location of adjustable interconnection and which slidingly receives an end of said rod.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an end sealer shifter assembly, comprising:

providing a transmission;

providing a push rod assembly which is in driving engagement with said transmission;

providing an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly; and

wherein said jaw comprises a rod reception component which slidingly receives an end of said rod providing compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, and wherein said jaw comprises a block having a heater wire compression surface; and

~~The method of claim 31~~ wherein said end of said rod includes an expanded portion which is received within a cavity formed in said jaw.

33. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a pair of concentrically nested springs.

34. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 17 wherein said compliance means includes first and second springs in a concentric nested arrangement.

35. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 27 wherein said first and second springs are in a concentric nested arrangement.